

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A package comprising a pleated tube, said tube defining opposed first and second face panels joined at one end thereof to define an end closure and contiguously interconnected along their longitudinal edges by gusset sides each having a longitudinal and a transverse fold ~~folded longitudinally~~ and extending inwardly relative to the longitudinal edges of the first and second face panels, each of the gusset sides including a vent configuration defined along a lower portion thereof near the end closure and spaced from the transverse fold;

wherein each vent configuration opens and closes in response to changes in air thrust and are further closed off when the package is in a filled state.

2. (Currently Amended) The package according to claim 1, wherein said tube ~~is selected from a group consisting of a spiral sewn tube, flat sheeted bag with at least a central seam, and a circular woven tube without an identifiable seam.~~

3. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 1, wherein the vent configuration comprises at least one slit.

4. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 3, wherein the at least one slit is arranged obliquely relative to the longitudinal edges of said first and second face panels.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 1, wherein when the package is in an expanded configuration, a first section of each face panel with its contiguous gusset portion is folded diagonally and in underlying relation thereto, said

first sections extending in opposite directions inwardly along a generally common transverse line disposed at right angles to the longitudinal edges of the face panels, and a second section of each face panel extending in the same direction outwardly from said common transverse line to a transverse terminal edge and with the contiguous gusset portions therebetween, the first and second sections of the face panels constituting an outer bottom panel forming a generally flat bottom for said package.

7. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 6, wherein the vent configuration is defined within the first and second sections of the face panels.

8. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 1, wherein the package is constructed of a woven polyolefin fabric.

9. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 8, wherein an entire interior surface or an exterior surface of the package is provided with a polymeric coating.

10. (Currently Amended) A bag of polyolefin woven fabric, said bag comprising first and second face panels, gusseted side panels formed from a longitudinal and a transverse fold, a single seam closing an end of the bag to define an end closure, and at least one opening defined along the gusseted side panels near said end closure spaced from the transverse fold;

wherein the at least one opening is configured to open and close in response to changes in air thrust and is further closed off when the bag is in a filled state.

11. (Previously Presented) The bag according to claim 10, wherein when the bag is in an expanded configuration, a first section of each face panel and a contiguous gusset portion are folded diagonally and in underlying relation thereto, portions of the first sections extending in opposite directions inwardly along a generally common transverse line disposed at right angles to the longitudinal edges of the face panels, and a second section of each face panel extending in the same direction outwardly from said common transverse line to a transverse terminal edge and with contiguous gusset portions therebetween, the first and second sections of the face panels constituting an outer bottom panel forming a generally flat bottom for the bag.

12. (Previously Presented) The bag according to claim 10, wherein the at least one opening is defined as a slit.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The bag according to claim 10, wherein the at least one opening is arranged obliquely relative to lateral edges of said first and second face panels.

15. (Currently Amended) Cotton bale packaging comprising first and second face panels, gusseted side panels each formed from a longitudinal and a transverse fold, a single seam joining an end of the first and second face panels to define an end closure, and a plurality of openings defined along said gusseted side panels near said end closure spaced from the transverse fold;

wherein the plurality of openings are configured to open and close in response to changes in air thrust and are further closed off when the packaging is in a filled state.

16. (Previously Presented) The cotton bale packaging according to claim 15, wherein when the cotton bale packaging is in an expanded configuration, a first section of each face panel and a contiguous gusset portion are folded diagonally and in underlying relation thereto, portions of the first sections extending in opposite directions inwardly along a generally common transverse line disposed at right angles to the longitudinal edges of the face panels, and a second section of each face panel extending in the same direction outwardly from said common transverse line to a transverse terminal edge and with contiguous gusset portions therebetween, the first and second sections of the face panels constituting an outer bottom panel forming a generally flat bottom for the cotton bale packaging.

17. (Previously Presented) The cotton bale packaging according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of openings are defined as slits.

18. (Currently Amended) The cotton bale packaging according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of openings are defined as ~~generally circular apertures~~ slits arranged in a preselected pattern.

19. (Previously Presented) The cotton bale packaging according to claim 15, wherein the at least one opening is arranged obliquely relative to longitudinal edges of the first and second face panels.

Application No.: 10/760,506  
Examiner: PASCUA, J. F.  
Art Unit: 3727

20. (Previously Presented) The cotton bale packaging according to claim 15, wherein interior surfaces or exterior surfaces of the packaging are provided with a polymeric coating.